EDITORIAL

In Support of the Nicaraguan People’s Defense of the Sovereign Dialogue for Peace

Socorro Gomez
President of the WPC

Strengthening our solidarity with the people of Nicaragua and their legitimately elected government in Nicaragua in the defense of national sovereignty and democracy, the peace forces in Latin America and the world are following with concern the crisis unfolding in the Central American country. It should be evident that foreign interference in Nicaragua has aggravated the situation and must be repudiated!

The World Peace Council and other popular forces have denounced the wave of coups or putschist attempts throughout Latin America and the Caribbean in collusion between national and regional oligarchies and their employers, the United States. The Nicaraguan case, in which the people and the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) have a historic legacy of brave resistance against US aggressions, is one of them.

That is why we express our support for the Nicaraguan people and the Sandinista Front government, led by a legitimately elected president, Daniel Ortega, in resisting coup attempts and calling for dialogue to overcome, sovereignly, the crisis established in the country.

Exploiting the just demands of peoples for rights and the deepening of democracy, or times of economic crisis born in the context of global crisis or artificially fomented, is a well-known tactic to cause destabilization. A media war has stimulated the environment of virulence and antagonism in the country, against the Sandinista government.

Violent paramilitary groups or obscure historical movements are created and, when unleashed, have proven links with American agencies, deputies and institutes known to stimulate destabilizing forces to cause “regime changes”, as components of coups d’état or of crises that provoke conservative and neoliberal turns in various countries.

Moreover, the Sandinista Front has been the target of acts of terror articulated by sectors of the local oligarchy, sponsored by the United States. In spreading hatred, reactionary forces and their paramilitary allies act brutally and have killed more than 100 people, most of them identified with the Front. Such horrendous acts must be repudiated in the strongest terms.

As we have recently denounced, the aim of such ignominy is to provoke the overthrow of the Ortega government and to legitimize its replacement by a government that acts like

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The Continental Meeting of Peace Organizations attached to the World Peace Council (WPC) in the region of the Americas and the Caribbean was held in Moca, Dominican Republic, on September 12 and 13 of 2018, under the presidency of Socorro Gomez, WPC President, and Regional Coordinator Silvio Platero with the participation of representatives of peace organizations from 10 countries of the continent.

This important biennial meeting was attended by peace leaders and fighters from the Dominican Union of Journalists for Peace (UDPP, the Spanish acronym), host organization of the meeting; the Canadian Peace Congress (CPC); the Movement for Peace, Solidarity and Sovereignty of Argentina (MOPASOL); the Peace Council of Brazil (Cebrapaz); the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (Movpaz); the Peace Council of the United States (USPC); the Mexican Movement for Peace and Development (MOMPADE) and the Peace Council of Guyana. It was also recognized the presence of delegates from Chile and Puerto Rico.

The meeting approved the Report presented by the Regional Coordinator summarizing the work in promotion of peace in the continent since the last meeting, held in Toronto, Canada, in July 2016. It was appreciated that multiple and diverse actions and initiatives of denounce and social criticism were carried out by the organizations in these two years of hard fight against the strategies of imperialism and its NATO allies to turn the continent into a geopolitical and economic order in the world and particularly in this continent.

Each one of the peace organizations attending the meeting presented its report on the work displayed during this period and informed in detail its actions in favor of peace in its country and the continent as a whole.

The relevance of the WPC Meeting held in Sao Luis, state of Maranhao, Brazil, in November 2016 for the coordination of the struggle for peace at world and continental levels was also highlighted. Said meeting had an ample representation of organizations from several world regions that reiterated their condemnation of imperialism and its NATO allies and the imperialist aggressions in several parts of the planet.

That continental meeting approved with satisfaction the celebration of the Fourth Trilateral Conference of the peace organizations of North America attached to the WPC, which drew a fruitful balance of the actions undertaken since the past meeting, held in Toronto, Canada, in July, 2016.

In this context, the Canadian Congress of Peace for Peace, the Peace Council of the United States, and the Mexican Movement for Peace and Development again elaborated and approved the guidelines of their actions and mobilizing initiatives against the war and imperialism in a region of high geostrategic importance for the destinies of humankind.

The participants in the continental meeting confirmed the complex international situation faced by the world because of the permanence and development of elements opposed to peace and global political stability. In the first place is the growing imperialist aggressiveness, today strengthened by an ultra-conservative Administration in Washington that persists in imposing its world dominion by means of strengthened intervention policies and military budget of the United States.

The utmost solidarity was conveyed in this regard with the peoples of Argentina, Brazil, Nicaragua and Venezuela that are currently facing the aggressive policies of imperialism and the national oligarchies temporarily heading the governments of several of those countries.

Particularly strong was the delegates’ demand for the release from prison of the leader of the Workers’ Party of Brazil, Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, and their endorsement of support for his right to freely participate in the national elections next October.

They likewise demanded the cessation of aggressions against the Bolivarian nation and expressed their great expectation of the attempt to assassinate of the democratically elected President Nicolas Maduro Moros.

They likewise expressed their firm solidarity with the people and government of Nicaragua, and defended their right to peace and free determination without any foreign meddling.

The coming to power of a new conservative government in Colombia creates even more difficulties for the peace agreements signed by the previous government and the FARC-EP at the time, in accordance with the declarations of the new ruler during the election campaign that took him to the presidency of the Republic. In this regard, the meeting issued a call to new authorities to continue with the negotiations with the ELN in order to conclude with the establishment of a definitive peace.

The leaders and peace fighters present at the meeting also stated their great concern regarding the extension and strengthening of the imperialist and oligarchic siege in Latin America and the Caribbean against the progressive political projects that for more than one decade have brought immeasurable social progress to their peoples and produced the notorious advancement of a favorable process of regional integration in solidarity without the participation of the United States.

The use of open or disguised methods of political, economic and media war, as well as the course of political manipulation of justice are ever more present in the imperial intentions to disarticulate and revert these processes, including military threat and even the attempt of assassination of national leaders. The strengthening of the South Command capacity with its network of military bases, as well as the reactionation of the Fourth Fleet is part and parcel of this strategy.

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In this context, the reorganization of national workers and organizations in several world regions is an essential element of the imperialist global strategy of dominion and violation of the sovereignty of the countries where they are located.

From that perspective, the permanent threat and imposition of sanctions against Russia and Iran is part of those aggressive policies that continue driving the world to the edge of a new world war.

The meeting showed sympathy and total endorsement to the creation of a Global Campaign against Foreign Military Bases and the WPC declaration of the World Day against Foreign Military Bases every February 23.

The first International Conference against US/NATO Military Bases sponsored by the WPC to be held in Dublin, next November will be a very significant moment for the global peace movement to wage a global struggle against the core foundation of the US/NATO imperialist domination and an important opportunity to mobilize the Global Campaign against these bases.

The participants likewise reiterated the demand to shut down NATO.

They also reiterated their stronger rejection to the imperialist policies in the Middle East aimed at the creation of a new geopolitical area in that territory in accordance with their interests to favor Israel and not propitiate the creation of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, as well as to achieve the dis-articulation of Syria and the Islamic revolution in Iran.

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Our Trilateral Meeting takes place at a time of a serious deterioration of the international situation, marked by the increasingly aggressive actions of U.S. imperialism, with the active support of Canada and its other NATO allies, to interfere in the domestic affairs of other states, to use economic blackmail and threats of aggression, to conspire with regional actors and local oligarchies to carry out ‘regime change’ operations against governments unwilling to submit to imperialist demands, and in some cases to resort to direct military intervention. This aggressive behavior comes together with, and is closely related to, the deepening systemic crisis of capitalism and the ever-worsening effects of climate change and the general degradation of the global environment.

The participants express grave concern over the accelerated drive to militarization, aggression and war threatens the very future of humanity, and call for our states to reverse the arms race, to sharply reduce bloated arsenals, to ban the militarization of outer space, and to move in the direction of general and comprehensive disarmament, including the ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Our organizations condemn the further expansion of NATO, including the recent addition of Colombia as a “global partner” and its intention to recruit other states in our hemisphere to the NATO camp, which is totally controlled by U.S. imperialism and serves its economic and political interests. The cause of peace can only be advanced through the dissolution of this aggressive military alliance, not through its expansion.

The Trilateral Meeting agrees that the firm foundation of the NAFTA negotiations, as laid on the principles of non-intervention and full respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, self-determination and independence of all states, as stipulated in the UN Charter and covenants of international law enacted since the end of the Second World War.

The participants note that the web of U.S. foreign military bases around the world – including an archipelago of almost 80 foreign bases throughout the Americas – is a direct threat to world peace and undermines the sovereignty of individual states, and we call for the closure of these bases, the scrapping of all foreign military bases, and the commitment to helping build the Global Campaign Against US/NATO Military Bases, and pledge to help mobilize the largest possible contingents of peace forces from our countries to participate in the International Conference Against US/NATO Military Bases to be held in Dublin, Ireland on November 16-18, 2018.

Our organizations pledge to strengthen our solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela and the Sandinista government in Nicaragua, both of which are under sharp attack by U.S. imperialism, and with Socialist Cuba which continues to endure and advance despite a revitalized blockade by the United States. These are not isolated issues or events, but rather part of a coordinated campaign to undermine progressive governments and movements throughout Latin America, particularly those striving to resist imperialist hegemony, and to defend their national sovereignty and independent path of development. This subversive campaign increasingly relies on judicial and parliamentary maneuvers to remove elected leaders andoust progressive governments from power.

In this regard, our Meeting welcomes the progressive changes in Mexico arising from the recent election results, but warns that the new government could well become the next target of such anti-democratic attacks by imperialism and domestic reactionary forces.

The participants note that the recognition of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between those three countries has reached a critical stage as the Trump Administration, acting in the interests of U.S. finance capital, seeks to extract concessions from both its northern and southern neighbors. Our organizations consider that the economic relations between our neighboring countries – and related treaties and agreements – mustbe mutually beneficial for the peoples and economies of our three countries, must serve to improve the wages, working conditions and overall living standards of our peoples, and must protect and enhance our shared natural environment.

Our organizations also express alarm at the rapid growth of racist, anti-immigrant tendencies and State policies in our countries, especially marked by the plans of the Trump Administration to step up the deportation of undocumented workers and the completion of a wall along the entire U.S./Mexican frontier. In our view such positions and policies pander to and help to promote the further rise of xenophobia, national chauvinism, racism and fascism in our societies, backward and dangerous trends which are antidemocratic and hostile to the cause of peace. We should be building bridges to unite us, not walls to divide us.

While working on all of these related issues over the coming period, our Meeting proposes that our organizations consider three specific campaign initiatives flowing out of this trilateral session:

1. Against Arms Production, the Arms Trade and the Militarization of our Societies – this to include opposition to the military-industrial complexes in our three countries, the export of weapons and military-related goods internationally (including the illicit cross-border traffic of weapons), and the hypocrisical “War on Drugs” and militarization of police forces domestically, all of which serve to breed a poisonous “cult of militarism” in our societies. No to Wars at Home or Abroad!

2. Against the Reactionary Wave of Intolerance, Xenophobia and Anti-Immigrant Ideas and State Policies which criminalizes migrant workers, national minorities and racialized communities, and promotes the spread of racism and fascism in our societies. Instead, we must build unity and solidarity among all those who stand for the protection and enhancement of the economic, social and political rights of the people, including the fundamental and inherent rights of the indigenous peoples of our countries.

3. Against Imperialist Intervention–issuing all States and peoples – no matter what peoples and States which are victimized by, or targeted for such intervention and aggression, within our hemisphere and around the world.

Finally, the Trilateral Meeting agrees to establish a permanent “continuation” committee, composed of our representative from each of our three organizations, to develop concrete proposals with regard to the above campaign initiatives (outlined above), and to maintain ongoing lines of communication and dialogue among our organizations on all matters of mutual concern and interest.

Communique of the Asia Pacific Regional Meeting of World Peace Council

The Asia Pacific Regional Meeting of World Peace Council has been successfully accomplished in Kathmandu Nepal during on July 27-28, 2018. Participated by 44 delegations from seven countries (India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Fiji, China), being the meeting concluded bringing future activities till the month of December this year. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Ishwor Pokharel and also addressed by the Executive Secretary of WPC, Idrissi Tzirardiris and the Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Ishwor Pokharel and also addressed by the Executive Secretary of WPC, Idrissi Tzirardiris and the Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Ishwor Pokharel and also addressed by the Executive Secretary of WPC, Idrissi Tzirardiris and the President of the WPC Regional Meeting with the chief guest, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Nepal, Ishwor Pokharel. From left to right: R. Pandey, former Minister and MP; Rabindra Adhikari, Regional Coordinating Director of Asia Pacific WPC; Defence Minister Ishwor Pokhrel; Pallab Sengupta, IAHPO General Secretary; and Idrissi Tzirardiris, WPC Executive Secretary.
Appeal to the Peace-Loving People of the World!

Peace-loving peoples of the world who aspire after justice and peace,

It is the unanimous desire of humanity to live in harmony and achieve co-prosperity in a free and peaceful world without domination and subordination, aggression and war.

The great leaders of the Korean People HE Kim Il Sung and HE Kim Jong Il devoted their all to the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, and to peace and security of the Korean Peninsula and the rest of the world in the whole course of founding and developing DPR Korea. And today their cause is given steady continuity by His Excellency Kim Jong Un.

Thanks to the bold and peace-loving measures and energetic activities of His Excellency Kim Jong Un, the atmosphere of reconciliation, cooperation and security prevails over the Korean Peninsula where the danger of military conflict reached the extreme until quite recently, giving to the international community immense pleasure and fresh hope for peace.

The peace-loving peoples of the world express highest respect to His Excellency Kim Jong Un for his special contribution to the dramatic turn on the Korean Peninsula and extend warmest welcome and support to the inter-Korean summit meeting and Panmunjom Declaration, the Singapore DPRK-USA summit meeting and Joint Statement.

Fully conscious of the important mission entrusted to us by the present historic times, the delegates of the Organizing Committee of the International Festival in Praise of the Great Persons of Mt. Paektu, friendship and solidarity organizations and international democratic organizations who have conducted positive activities to support the Korean people in their just cause appeal to the peace-loving peoples of the world as follows:

First, let us further intensify the international solidarity activities in demand of the establishment of lasting and durable peace regime on the Korean Peninsula!

Second, let us launch vibrant activities against all forms of sanctions and unreasonable measures that hamper prosperity of the Korean people!

The Korean people have raised DPRK to the position of a world-recognized strategic nation defying the most brutal and protracted sanctions and moves to isolate and stifle it in history, and are opening the bright future of fresh development and prosperity by the concerted efforts of the Korean nation.

Let us make united and worldwide efforts to expose the unfairness and inhumanity of all kinds of hostile policy towards DPR Korea and sanctions against it and demand that they be uplifted immediately!

Let us give full support to all measures taken by the Korean people to make a tangible contribution to the end of all military actions detrimental to the atmosphere of peace prevailing over the Korean Peninsula, and to peace and security on it!

Third, let us give full support to, and solidarity with the Korean people in their struggle to reunify the country in the name of national independence!

It is the unanimous desire of the entire Korean nation in the north, in the south and abroad to put an end to the 60-years-long division and hostilities between them. All this affects our minds and hearts are many cases of our sympathies and solidarity with the Korean people in their just cause!

The WPC expresses its sympathy and solidarity with the Korean people in their just cause appeal to the peace-loving peoples of the world to give full support and solidarity to the just cause of the Korean people.

Participants in the International March for Peace, Prosperity and Reunification of Korea — Pyongyang, September 11, 2018

Speech by Iraklis Tsavardisis
Executive Secretary of the WPC

"To Build a Community of Shared Future for Mankind"

CPAPD Event on the UN International Day of Peace
Nanjing, China — September 19-20, 2018

On behalf of the WPC we convey our most cordial greetings to the CPAPD and through you to the peace-loving peoples of the PR China.

It is with pleasure to visit once more China and it is with feelings of great respect to visit Nanjing, 30 years after the massacre which took place by the Japanese invaders, one of the cruelest acts of barbarity in history having hundreds of thousands of slaughtered civilians of all age. The WPC expresses its sympathy and solidarity with the people and city of Nanjing.

As WPC we are engaged in many dozens of countries, trying to uncover the roots for the wars, the invasions, occupation and foreign interference in internal affairs of sovereign countries, denouncing the forces which act in front and behind the scenes, violating International Law and the principles of the UN founding Charters.

All the above can be observed today in many corners of the world which is becoming increasingly threatened by the imperialist aggressiveness and the interests of the Multinational Corporations who are seeking for new energy resources and raw materials, for new markets and spheres of influence in order to multiply their profits.

Where the political manipulation, imposition and sanctions are not sufficient for the "color revolutions", the imperialists are not hesitating to use the brutal military force for violent regime changes with massive loss of lives of civilians, huge flow of millions of refugees and displaced people.

It is not a secret that in today's world, the USA, its allies from the European Union and NATO are major aggressors, despite differences and antagonisms between them. All these affects also Russia and China their economic competitors who are faced with sanctions, trade war, but also by installing military bases and "military defense shields" around their borders, in order to secure a possible first strike option, including a nuclear one, without the possibility of retaliation.

The lessons we draw from the history and in particular from the Nanjing massacre 80 years ago, are that the peoples have to identify and fight against the aggressors, to resist and to struggle for their freedom, their independence and sovereignty.

In our minds and hearts are many cases of peoples under such conditions, but allow us to underline the cases of the peoples of the Middle East, the peoples of Syria, Iraq, Yemen and especially the heroic people of Palestine, victim of the Israeli occupation since 70 years, suffering from a slow genocide and by the complicity of the forces who fully back the Israeli regime, such as the USA and the EU.

We declare our solidarity with the peoples in Latin America, in particular with the Socialist Cuba and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, both victims of the US imperialism. Having been day in day out in Pyongyang in the DPRK Korea for the celebrations of its 70th founding anniversary we express our hopes, however being cautious, that a new path of normalization of the DPRK-USA relations has opened. Nevertheless, we demand the withdrawal of all US troops from South Korea, the end of the joint military exercises between USA-Japan-South Korea and support the complete de-nuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

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We support the independent peace-de-nuclearization of the Korean peninsula and to peace and security on it!

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Peace Messenger — 70 Years in Defense of Peace
August 1948: Cornerstone of the World Peace Movement

Early 70 years ago, between August 25 and 28, 1948, the Polish city of Warsaw hosted the Second World Congress of Intellectuals in Defense of Peace, an important expression of the world movement that, two years later, would join forces with the World Peace Council.

Three years after World War II and the victory over Nazi-fascism in 1945, this congress assembled hundreds of delegates from 45 countries, which included some outstanding intellectuals and artists, like Pablo Picasso, Eugénie Cotton, Irene Curie, Paul Éluard, Jorge Amado, Henri Wallon, Anna Seghers, Aime Cesaire, Anders Neva and Gyorgy Lukacs, among others. The largest delegations came from Poland itself, as well as from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and the Soviet Union.

In the adopted Manifesto, the fundamental aim of the Congress was clear:

"We raise our voice in favour of peace, for the free cultural development of peoples, their national independence and close cooperation. In a time already marked by new threats to a hard-won peace - when the US and its allies were already carrying out what came to be called the Cold War and, across the Maginot and the Siegfried Line, brandished the atomic threat to the world - it was time to act with boldness and determination. The Congress urged intellectuals to "organise national congresses of men of culture in defence of peace in all countries; create national committees for peace in all countries; strengthen international links among intellectuals of all countries to serve peace."

The Warsaw Congress also called for the holding, in a short time, of a world congress of peace advocates, that did take place in August 1949 - a few weeks after the formal constitution of NATO - in the First World Congress of Partisans for Peace more than 2,000 delegates from 72 countries participates, which was held simultaneously in Paris and Prague due to the refusal of the French authorities to allow the entry of delegates from some countries of Eastern Europe and Asia.

Differently from what happened in August 1948, in the World Congress of Partisans for Peace not only artists and intellectuals, but also workers, students, scientists, political leaders, political officials, cabinet members, participated answering to the Call sent out on February 1949 to "all democratic organizations that have as a main interest the defence of peace and the freedom of peoples - trade unions, women and youth movements, peasant organizations, coops and religious groups, organizations of scientists, writers, journalists, artists and democratic politicians" to demonstrate in favour of peace.

The Manifesto of this Congress, read in Paris by the French poet Louis Aragon, presented the fundamental objectives and principles of the movement that then was then being born:

"We stand for the U. N. Charter, against all military alliances that nullify the purposes and principles of the Charter."

"We are against the crushing burden of military expenditure which is responsible for the poverty of the peoples."

"We stand for the banning of atomic weapons and other methods of mass extermination of human beings and for the limitation of the armed forces of the Great Powers and the establishment of a stricter international control over the use of atomic energy for exclusively peaceful ends and for the good of mankind."

"We strive for the national independence and peaceful cooperation of all peoples, for the right of peoples to determine their own future — essential conditions for freedom and Peace."

"We oppose all attempts to restrict and then to destroy democratic liberties in order to prepare the way for war. We are the worldwide bulwark of truth and reason; we aim at neutralising the proton of War and, after Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the brandished the atomic threat to the world; we demand the Charter and lead to war.

"We stand for the U. N. Charter, the fight against all military alliances that nullify the purposes and principles of the U. N. Charter."

"We condemn war hysteria, the preaching of race hatred and hostility between peoples. We urge the condemnation and boycott of newspapers, literary productions and films, individuals and organisations which make propaganda for a new war."

Pablo Picasso created the poster of the Congress, which elected the Standing Committee of Peace-Partisans, based in Paris and was coordinated by the French physicist, Frédéric Joliot-Curie. It was this Committee that in March 1950 launched the Stockholm Appeal, for a atomic weapon ban, which collected hundreds of millions of signatures worldwide and made a decisive contribution to the decided on the constitution of the first World Peace Council chaired by Frédéric Joliot-Curie.

The statutes adopted there established the unitary, democratic, anti-fascist and anti-imperialist character of the World Peace Council, confirmed by its composition: among its 221 members were personalities from different nation- alities, social origins, political ideologies and religious confessions. The defence of peace and disarmament, the peaceful resolution of international conflicts and national sovereignty, and solidarity with peoples who were victims of war, occupation, blackmail and blockade were from the outset its main causes.

Amongst other important aspects, the Manifesto to the Peoples of the World, issued by the Second World Peace Congress, underlined the necessity and the possibility of preventing a new war, of which there were already threats. "Every thinking person knows that he who dares to say "War is inevitable" slanders mankind. You who read this message, proclaimed in the name of the peoples of 30 nations represented at the Second World Peace Congress in Warsaw, must never forget that the fight for Peace is your own fight. You should know that hundreds of millions of defenders of Peace, united as one man, reach out their hand to you. They invite you to take part in the noblest struggle ever waged by mankind with concerning the future. We cannot wait for Peace. We must win it," stated the Manifesto. The Congress itself was the expression that "men and women gathered from the five continents of the world can agree, despite great differences of opinion, in order to dispel the scourge of war and to maintain Peace", as also stated in the Manifesto.

In a time like the one we are living in, marked by mounting tensions and the militarization of international relations; by increasing interference, destabiliza- tion and wars of aggression; by the disrespect for the independence of States and of the dignity and the rights of peoples; marked by the increase in military expenditure and arms race - as a result of a war mongering policy promoted by the USA, EU, NATO and their allies - we must keep in mind the example of the defenders of Peace that, incomparably harsh times, knew, despite differences, how to understand, despite differences, how to determine the main threat and danger, uniting forces against a new war and in the defence of Peace and the survival of humankind. Let us raise high and pursue today and in the future their legacy and their struggle.

Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation — August 28, 2018

Anti-War Demonstration in Milan

The Committee Against War Milan (Comitato Contro la Guerra Milano) participated in a demonstration, held Saturday May 19 in Milan, in support of the struggle of the Palestinian people, and against the transfer of the US embassy to Jeru- salem, which occurred just before the day of the Catastrophe (Nakba, in Arabic): 70 years of oppression and suffering for the people expelled from their land.

With the Committee Against War Mi- lan there were also the flags of countries historically Palestine's friends and who were themselves attacked by US imperialism and by Zionism.
Speech by Thanassis Pafilis, General Secretary of the WPC
At the Conference Against NATO — Brussels, July 7, 2018

Fellow Militants,

On behalf of the WPC Secretariat, we thank all representatives of peace movements and other people’s organizations that participated in this year’s Conference and the demonstration against NATO which is the armed hand of imperialism against the peoples.

The NATO aggression, the intensification of the anti-imperialist struggle of the WPC; it takes place in conditions of economic crisis, imperialist domination and antagonisms, accompanied amongst others by interventions, imperialist wars, new war preparations and threats against peoples around the world.

We condemn in the most categorical manner the interventions and the war against Syria, the threats against Iran following the withdrawal of the US from the nuclear agreement, the transfer of the US Embassy to Jerusalem, Israel’s assassinations against the Palestinian-Turkey’s invasion of Syria and Iraq, the war of Saudi Arabia against Yemen.

All these developments are extremely dangerous and motivate the need for more generalized wars, set the ground for a new, bigger wave of refugees and immigrants.

It is obvious that in the South-East Mediterranean region and more broadly, the competitions for the control of resources, the transport routes of energy and products, and the geostrategic control are increasing. Such antagonisms occur across the globe, from the Arctic to the Antarctic, from the Atlantic to the Balkans and Africa. The economic war that manifests itself between the United States, China and Russia is also increasing. China and other major powers, is intensifying. The whole planet looks like a volcano that is currently showing small explosions but seems to be preparing bigger and bigger ones as history has shown.

This situation also underlines the duty of the people to struggle against imperialism, to develop and strengthen the people’s movement in a struggle that will turn against the causes that create this situation.

The NATO summits, like the one to be carried out, are adapting its policy, structure and action to these conditions, aiming, despite its internal contradictions, at maintaining and expanding its domination throughout the world, by all means including of course the war.

The WPC at its meetings and international Conferences, such as the one taking place today, monitors these dangerous developments, informs the peace movement about them andAFPdescribes the movements with the aim of alerting and mobilizing the peoples.

Some characteristic elements in relation to the escalation of NATO’s latest aggressiveness and activity are:

• The further concentration of military forces and armaments at the border with Russia with the aim of providing NATO member countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The creation of new bases, such as in Larrison of Greece, with drones installation, the modernization and extension of old bases, etc., Souda in Crete, Araxos for Nuclear Weapons in Greece.

• The strengthening of structures of command of the military forces.

• Its new expansion in the Balkans with the invitation for FYROM’s accession to NATO following the desirable agreement between Greece and FYROM, which was held for this purpose. A new qualitative element is the process of Colomubia’s accession to NATO, which is the first of the countries in Latin America.

• The most important and most revealing of the literally brutal goals of NATO is the report of a powerful think tank, Chalnes based in Bratislava. It is a text for discussion at this Summit and a plan for a “New Strategic Concept” to be adopted in 2019, in the 70 years of this murderous Organization.

I would like to briefly refer to this report:

“NATO — it is stated — in order to maintain its credibility, needs to begin a more extensive adaptation process. It has to make sure it has the ability to make war, and it has the capability to prevent such a war.” It’s obvious what it means. Next, the objectives are defined: Russian reinforcement in the South and also North Korea!!

It then states that a prerequisite for this is to increase military expenses so that all countries reach 2% of the GDP. At the same time, it states that “member states should buy what they need and not what they want”, meaning that military spending is determined on the basis of NATO priorities rather than the needs of states for their defense. At the same time, they require a greater involvement of the 28 country members in military alliance missions (partially outside Europe).

• It then refers to the adaptation of the NATO command structure so that it can be “ready to go tonight”. In a provocative way, it notes the need to improve “military mobility” by removing bureaucratic and other obstacles so that the EU and building new resilient infrastructures (motorways, bridges, railroad networks) in order to give NATO “sovereignty and simply miliary forces in the east and south.

• Finally, in the chapter “Strategic Allies and Opponents”, it calls for a closer connection with the EU. It sets a goal of a NATO-EU summit every year. It argues that “NATO’s opponents already believe they are at war with it”, naming as such Russia, Al-Qaeda and ISIS!!! It clearly and as a matter of priority determines the South (Syria and the Mediterranean), as an area of action, noting that “Moscow’s movements in the region “challenge the primacy of the US and its Allies in the Eastern Mediterranean”.

There is no question that if this text were proclaimed, NATO was and is the enemy of peoples and peace, the armed hand of imperialism, the armed, dangerous and_paths creating huge implications of imperialist domination: the Second Interna_tional Seminar “Reality and Challenges of the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as Zone of Peace”, to be held in Havana on September 19th-21st, 2018, and the 6th International Seminar for Peace and the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases, to take place in Guantán_amo on May 4-6, 2019.

The participants in this peace meeting in the American continent received with satisfaction the intention expressed by the Mexican Movement for Peace and Solidarity to consider the possibility to host the next Continental Meeting in 2020 in Mexico what it will be conveniently confirmed to WPC, to the WPC Continental Coordinator and to WPC Organization.

At the end of the meeting, the representatives of the peace organizations of the continent expressed their acknowledg_ment and thankfulness to the Dominican Union for Peace for its ef_fective role as host of the meeting and the excellent facilities and courtesies that, to gether with the authorities and the people of Moca, were granted to the participants. Moca, Dominican Republic September 13, 2018

In solidarity with the Nicaraguan people and their legitimately elected government!
Thousands of people, both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, people of all ages from all walks of life and from all corners of Cyprus, marched on Sunday 18th June 2018 in the Pan-Cypriot Peace March to the British Base of Akrotiri organized by the Cyprus Peace Council. This sea of people sent out a powerful message for Peace in Cyprus, Peace in the World. It was a truly popular mobilization with unity in action embracing broad masses strata and various movements that came together around common goals, a traditional feature and fundamental principle of the peace movement of Cyprus.

The hot sun, strong wind, as well as the sound of two British fighter jets which flew above were not enough to break the will and dampen the passion of the marchers for peace. Thousands of people marched 4.5 kilometers, demonstrating against the atrocities of the criminal wars and ongoing NATO imperialist interventions against the peoples.

They denounced the use of Cyprus through the British Bases as an aggressive launching pad against our neighbor peoples.

They demanded the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Cyprus, the withdrawal of the occupying army of Turkey which continues to occupy almost 40% of Cyprus’ territory, the abolition of the British bases and the dissolution of NATO. They demanded peace in Cyprus and the world.

An event was held before the march began with a cultural program which was addressed by the President of the Cyprus Peace Council Stelios Sufoki, the General Secretary of the World Peace Council Thanasis Pathos, the General Secretary of the Turkish Cypriot Primary School Teachers Trade Union KTOS, the representative of the Syrian National Council of Peace Samir Masad, the Palestinian Committee for Peace and Solidarity Hassan Mahareeg, the Peace and Solidarity Committee of Israel Aida Toumas-Sliman, the British Council of Peace Steve Johnson, the former President of the Confederation Group of the European United Left (GUE/NGL) Francis Wurtza, the former Yugoslav Foreign Minister Zivadin Yoanovic and finally the General Secretary of the Central Committee of AKEL Andreas Kyprianou.

Representatives from the fraternal movement of the Portuguese Peace Council for Peace and Cooperation and the peace movement in Spain also took part in the event and March, while the peace movements of Turkey and the Czech Republic sent messages of support and solidarity. It should also be noted that over 160 people of the arts and letters, of culture in general, including cultural movements and agencies, signed a declaration supporting the aims and goals of the Peace March.

Just before the beginning of the March, the renowned actor Stelios Kafkarides, read out excerpts from the lyrics of the “Peace March” written by communist Cypriot poet Theodosis Pierides:

“And the great army of the people is now as big as our great land and deeper than our great sea, stronger than a thunderbolt... Peace is not awarded – it is won. Peace is a battle and a victory.”

The Peace March arrived at the gates of the Akrotiri British air base, from where the British fighter jets were taking off to bomb the neighboring people of Syria. Life jackets were symbolically scattered, as well as an inflatable boat, a moving artistic intervention aimed at sending a message against the death of thousands of people who have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea in their efforts to avoid the horrors of war and imperialist interventions. A delegation, headed by the President of the Cyprus Peace Council delivered a resolution to the representative of the Akrotiri British Base.

Regional European Meeting of WPC
Karl Marx Library, London — May 26–27, 2018

The regional meeting of the WPC in Europe took place successfully in London, on 26 and 27 May, 2018. The meeting was hosted by the British Peace Assembly (BPA) more than 30 years after the last such occasion. The Meeting took place a significant venue, the regional meeting of the WPC in Europe took place successfully in London, on 26 and 27 May, 2018. The meeting was hosted by the British Peace Assembly (BPA) more than 30 years after the last such occasion. The Meeting took place a significant venue, the Karl Marx Library, London. It was attended also by the Executive Secretary WPC, Abbas Tavardaris.

The Peace Movements from Britain, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Czech Republic, Serbia, Germany, Ireland and Switzerland and guests from the Peace Movements of the USA and Iran, discussed the relevant situation with the growing aggressiveness of imperialism around the globe, exchanged views and experiences about the struggle in each country and the coordination of it. The WPC regional meeting reiterated its commitment to struggle against NATO for its dissolution and the struggle in each member state for the disengagement from it, against the imperialist plans and actions of the EU through PESCO, Battle Groups and EU Army and expresses the serious concerns about the escalation of the imperialist threats and interventions in the Middle East and the dangers for a generalized war of global dimensions. The Meeting approved resolutions about the situation around Iran and Cyprus and a regional appeal towards the NATO summit in Brussels.

The WPC in Europe discussed based on the global plan of action of the WPC, the anti-NATO activities to be held on 6 and 7 July in Brussels in cooperation with INTAI Belgium and in the network of the WPC campaign “YES to Peace-No to NATO”, and expressed support to the holding of the International Conference against US and NATO Foreign Military Bases to be held in Dublin/Ireland on November 16–18, 2018.

38th Peace Marathon March Held by the Greek Committee for International Detente and Peace (EEDYE)

On the National Day of anti-imperialist Action all over Greece in Athens, a Peace March of 42.3 km distance was carried out with the participation of thousands of demonstrators from ancient Marathon to the Greek Ministry of Defense. Similar peace marches were held on the same day in the cities of Thessaloniki, Larissa, Alexandroupolis, Chania (Crete), Patras, Ioannina, Samos island with many thousands participants upon the call of EEDYE. The main slogans of the action were: • NATO out of the Aegean Sea • No the change of borders and the treaties which define them • Close down of all US NATO military facilities and Bases • Return of all military and police missions of Greece from abroad • Disengagement from NATO and the EU • Solidarity with the peoples under imperialist aggressions.
MK Aida Touna-Sliman
President of the Peace and Solidarity Committee in Israel

"Israel the Nation State Law of the Jewish People," legislated on the 19th of July in the Israeli Knesset, marks a turning point in the history of the Middle East Region and the official declaration of establishment of the Colonial Apartheid Region in Israel.

This basic constitutional law cannot be, and is not, just an internal Israeli issue. It is in full contradiction to International Law and all Resolutions and Declarations, and is aimed at eliminating any future possibility of ending the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Syrian lands occupied in 1967, or the establishment of an Independent Palestinian State.

Clearly this law is a Colonial Law as it is applied to territories classified as under occupation by the International Community.

The Nation State Law declares occupied Jerusalem the eternal capital of Israel, and the Golan Territory as part of Israel. By using the terminology of "Land of Israel" (meaning from the Jordan river) it reveals the intention to continue the occupation and further annexation of the territories that are under occupation.

Realizing the facts in the context of the current political developments on the ground, makes it very clear that it meant to change the reality in a drastic way. Moving the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem; and the recognition of Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel, and the attack on UNRWA and re-defining the Palestinian refugee issues, both aim to put an end to the open discussion on two of the final remaining issuesoccoimed in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

The Israeli occupation’s decision to demolish and remove of Khan Al’Ahmar village in the center of the West Bank to Jerusalem, will isolate Jerusalem from the rest of the Palestinian occupied territories, will cut the West Bank into two unconnected parts, preventing the possibility of future Palestinian State.

The Law in its articles violate the rights of the Arabs living under the Israeli laws.

The questions of Solidarity with the people of all continents are the central activities of WPC member’s organizations. The Asia-Pacific region was always in the forefront of Solidarity activities. The WPC member’s organizations from this region have to redeem their solidarity with the people of Palestine, Korea, Cuba, Venezuela, Vietnam and other countries of the world.

Future Activities for the Year 2018

The Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of the WPC members and friendly organizations decided to organize following activities:

1. To observe 6th and 9th August as Hiroshima and Nagasaki day and to popularize the demands for total nuclear disarmament and Asia free of all foreign military bases.
2. To observe international day of solidarity with the people of Palestine on 29th November in appropriate manner.
4. To participate also in the International Conference against US/NATO foreign military to be held Dublin from 16th to 17th November.
5. The meeting also decided that all member organizations of WPC has to clear their due membership fees as soon as possible.
6. To organise a trilateral meeting among the Peace movements from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh in Dhaka.

The meeting extended sincere thanks to the Bangladesh National Solidarity and Council and its members for hosting the meeting and providing a warm hospitality.

We call all our member organizations to take appropriate steps to realize the above activities adopted at the regional consultative meeting.

Resolution on Rohingya People in Myanmar

The Asia-Pacific regional meeting of the World Peace Council condemns the ongoing atrocities with the Rohingya people of Myanmar, who are facing huge humanitarian crisis and who are being chased and running away from their homes with serious complaints for policies of ethnic cleansing. As a result of such killing and atrocities, thousands and thousands of Rohingyas are being chased and forced to leave Myanmar, thus created huge economic burden on Bangladesh government as well as created social tension inside the country. The Myanmar government should create appropriate social and economic conditions so that Rohingyas people who were forced to leave Rakhin province can go back there with full citizenship rights.